Health Appraisals

708.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the process for conducting health appraisals on all inmates following their arrival at this facility and for the continuity of care for inmates who remain in custody for extended periods. Further, it is to ensure the inmate's health care needs are met and that health care started at one facility continues as needed.

708.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office that all inmates should receive a comprehensive health appraisal within 14 days of incarceration unless there is documented evidence that the inmate has received a health appraisal within the previous 90 days. In addition to the initial health appraisal, the inmate should have an annual evaluation to reassess his/her health status and to provide access to preventive medicine through education and lifestyle programs.

708.3 INITIAL HEALTH APPRAISAL

(a) Qualified health care professionals shall have access to the daily inmate roster. From this, they can determine who needs a health appraisal and hands-on physical evaluation. The health appraisal should include:

1. A review of earlier medical screening information.
2. Administration of a skin test for tuberculosis (TB).
3. Recording of height and weight.
4. Recording of vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, respiration rate, and temperature).
5. Ordering other tests or examinations as appropriate.
6. The collection of any additional data needed to complete medical, dental, psychiatric, and immunization histories

(b) Inmates shall be scheduled for a hands-on physical evaluation by a qualified health care professional (physician, mid-level practitioner, or registered nurse) within 48 hours of arrival at the correctional facility. The evaluation shall include:

1. Review of the medical screening.
2. Review of the health history questionnaire.
3. Review of all vital signs and TB skin test results.
4. A medical examination, including a review of mental and dental status.
5. Initiation of treatment or therapy, as appropriate.
6. Development and implementation of a treatment plan, including recommendations for housing, job assignment, and program participation.

The contract medical provider shall review and authorize all health appraisals within 72 hours.

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708.3.1 PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) SCREENING FOLLOW-UP
Inmates who have an identified history of sexual victimization shall be offered a follow-up meeting with a qualified health care professional or mental health provider within 14 days of intake screening (28 CFR 115.81).

708.3.2 OPIOID USE DISORDER
Individuals who are experiencing an opioid use disorder will be provided with opioid treatment medications pursuant to the procedures developed by the health authority and in compliance with the requirements of RCW 71.24.599.

Prior to the release of the inmate receiving opioid treatment medication, the health authority will connect the inmate to an appropriate provider or treatment site in the geographic region where the inmate will reside. If a connection is not possible, the health authority should document the efforts made in the inmate's file (RCW 71.24.599).

708.4 ANNUAL HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

The contract medical provider will determine the criteria for periodic health examinations for inmates. Inmates should be scheduled for an annual health examination within 14 days of the inmate's annual incarceration anniversary. The examination should include:

- A review of current vital signs and weight.
- A TB skin test and review of the results.
- An evaluation of any health-related issues arising since the last health evaluation.
- Initiation of treatment, as appropriate.
- Any updates to the inmate treatment plan.

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